

REMARKS

This Response is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2006, for which a response is due by October 29, 2006. In the Office Action, the examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 – 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by SU 916,441 issued to Ilyaletdinov et al. In addition, claims 2 – 5 and 9 – 13 were objected to for being dependent on rejected base claims. In response, Applicant is amended claims 1, 3 – 5, 9, 14, 20 and 30. In addition, claim 2 is being canceled. No new matter is being added. Claim 1, 3 – 14 and 20 – 31 remain pending.

I. Pending Claims

While the Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 31 were pending, Applicant would like to clarify that in fact claims 15 – 19 were previously canceled pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 15, 2004. Including the cancellation of claim 2 being effected by this submission, claims 1, 3 – 14 and 20 – 31 remain pending.

II. Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the material limitations of claim 2. As such, Applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable as it effectively represents claim 2 in independent form. The dependencies for claims 3 – 5 and 9 were correspondingly amended to account for the cancellation of claim 2.

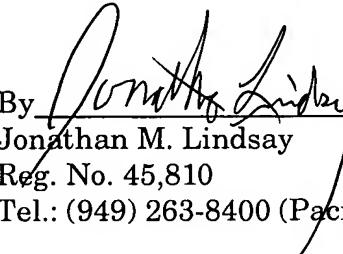
Additionally, allowed claims 14 and 20 have been amended to more clearly describe that which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant further submits that all dependent claims are now allowable by virtue of depending on allowable base claims. If there are any questions regarding this Response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101172.55433US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 21, 2006
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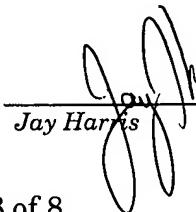
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